Claim Amendments:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A seam closing apparatus for use in sealing a duct seam having an outwardly extending sealing portion and a lower fold, said seam closing apparatus comprising:

a handle portion having a power actuation trigger;

a first roller comprising a first exterior side and a first annular surface connected thereto ~~for engaging said outwardly extending sealing portion of said duct seam with a first annular surface, said first annular surface having a uni-planar profile~~;

a second roller located proximate and axially parallel to the first roller and comprising a second exterior side, a second annular surface connected to the second exterior side, and an annular groove formed in the second annular surface proximate the second exterior side for engaging said lower fold of said duct seam ~~with a groove formed in a second annular surface~~;

wherein the first annular surface of the first roller extends substantially past the second exterior side of the second roller for engaging said outwardly extending sealing portion of said duct seam; and

wherein operation of said power actuation trigger causes said first roller to rotate in a first direction, thereby flattening said outwardly extending sealing portion of said duct seam.

2. (Original) The seam closing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

operation of said power actuation trigger causes said second roller to rotate in a second direction, said second direction being opposite to said first direction.

3. (Currently amended) The seam closing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

~~said first roller and said second roller are operatively mounted in a step-wise manner such that said first annular surface and said second annular surface are offset from one another.~~

the first exterior side of the first roller defines a first end of the first annular surface and first roller, said end having a first diameter; and

the annular groove of the second roller lies opposite a second end of the first annular surface, said second end having a second diameter less than the first diameter.

4. (Currently amended) The seam closing apparatus according to claim 1, ~~claim 3,~~ wherein:

said first annular surface and said second annular surface do not substantially directly oppose one another.

5. (Currently amended) The seam closing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein:

said first roller is mounted to an operation end of said seam closing apparatus; and

said first roller includes an angled profile such that a diameter of said first roller is not uniform and increases in an axial direction extending outwardly past the end of the second roller.

6. (Original) The seam closing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein:

said first roller and said second roller share a common drive source.

7. (Previously presented) The seam closing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said first and said second rollers are rotatably mounted to an operation end of said seam closing apparatus; and

an idler handle is pivotably connected to said operation end wherein said second roller may be selectively engaged via operation of said idler handle.

8. (Previously presented) The seam closing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:

said idler handle is operatively connected to said second roller such that pivoting of said idler handle causes said second roller to move from a first non-engaging position to a second engaging position.

9. (Currently amended) A hand-held seam closing apparatus for use in sealing a duct seam having an outwardly extending sealing portion and a lower fold, said seam closing apparatus comprising:

a handle portion having a power actuation trigger for selectively enabling operation of said hand-held seam closing apparatus;

a pair of opposing, axially parallel rollers rotatably mounted upon a distal end of said hand-held seam closing apparatus, said pair of opposing rollers being operatively mounted in a step-wise manner such that said pair of opposing rollers are offset from one another with an annular outer surface portion of a first of said rollers extending substantially past an end of a second of said rollers;

wherein the second roller includes an annular groove positioned proximate the end of the second roller for engaging said lower fold of said duct seam; and

wherein operation of said power actuation trigger causes said one of said pair of opposing rollers to rotate in a first direction.

10. (Original) The hand-held seam closing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

operation of said power actuation trigger causes said pair of opposing rollers to each rotate in opposing directions to one another.

11. (Currently amended) The hand-held seam closing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

~~one of said opposing rollers an annular groove formed thereon for capturing said lower fold of said duct seam; and~~

the ~~other of said opposing rollers defines a uni-planar~~ annular outer surface of the first roller is frusto-conical in shape for biasing said sealing portion, wherein said annular groove is positioned proximate the end of the second roller and opposite an end of the fusto-conical outer surface having a shortest diameter of the outer surface.

12. (Currently amended) The hand-held seam closing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

the first roller ~~other of said pair of opposing rollers~~ is eccentrically formed.

13. (Currently amended) The hand-held seam closing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein:

~~said other of said opposing rollers~~ the first roller is mounted to a ~~planar~~ mounting surface on said distal end; and

~~said other of said opposing rollers~~ the first roller includes an angled profile such that a diameter of said ~~other of said opposing rollers~~ first roller increases in an axial direction extending outwardly from said ~~planar~~ mounting surface of said distal end.

14. (Original) The hand-held seam closing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:

said opposing rollers each share a common drive source.

15. (Previously presented) The hand-held seam closing apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising:

an idler handle pivotably mounted to said distal end; and

wherein one of said opposing rollers may be selectively engaged with said duct seam via operation of said idler handle.

16. (Previously presented) The hand-held seam closing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein:

said idler handle is operatively connected to one of said opposing rollers such that pivoting of said idler handle causes one of said opposing rollers to move from a first non-engaging position away from said duct seam to a second engaging position in contact with said duct seam.

17. (Currently amended) A method for sealing a duct seam having an outwardly extending sealing portion and a lower fold, said method comprising the steps of:

engaging the lower fold with an annular groove located proximate an end of a first roller;

engaging the sealing portion with an annular outer surface of a second roller located proximate and axially parallel to the first roller; and

rotating at least one of the rollers, wherein the outer annular surface of the second roller extends substantially past the end of the first roller for folding the sealing portion over towards the lower fold.

~~rotatably mounting a pair of opposing rollers upon a distal end of a hand-held seam closing apparatus, said distal end having a first planar surface and a second planar surface disposed thereon;~~

~~orienting one of said pair of opposing rollers on said first planar surface;~~

~~orienting the other of said pair of opposing rollers on said second planar surface, said first planar surface and said second planar surface being discontinuous in a step-wise manner wherein said pair of opposing rollers are oriented to be substantially non-coplanar with one another;~~

~~engaging one of said pair of opposing rollers with said outwardly extending sealing portion of said duct seam; and~~

~~actuating said hand-held seam closing apparatus to cause said one of said pair of opposing rollers to rotate in a first direction.~~

18. (Currently amended) The method for sealing a duct seam according to claim 17, said method further comprising the steps of:

~~actuating said hand-held seam closing apparatus to cause said pair of opposing rollers to each rotate~~ rotating the rollers in opposing directions to one another.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) The method for sealing a duct seam according to claim 18, ~~claim 19,~~ said method further comprising the steps of:

forming ~~said other of said opposing rollers~~ the outer annular surface of the second roller to include an angled profile such that a diameter of ~~said other of said opposing rollers~~ the second roller increases in an axial direction extending outwardly past the end of the first roller. ~~from said first and said second planar surfaces of said distal end.~~